G. R. S. App. F. IX-4]

1942-3

W File No. 203-42

Previous References.

(War)

Serial Nos. 3 & 4.

Later References.

P 6

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Two only

Part B for June 1943.

SUBJECT.

Recognition of the Middle East Forces Special Identification Travel Permits as valid travel documents.

J. R. Krishnan
24.6.43.

3499/W

Continuation Sheet.

Recognition of the Middle East Forces Special Identification Travel Permits as Valid travel documents.

File No.

Current No. 203

of 42-3. Page.

3. From The Secy to the Hon'ble the Resident R.F. 73(4)-43/Pol dt 17th Jan. 43 forwg a copy of Home Dept letter dt 10th Jan-43 from Dept Addl for perusal. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Govt + C.R in continuation

(R.S 21/6 Sec)

Sec 23/6.

4. Issued 4505 b/w dt 23rd Jan. 43 to the C.R + 15 P.

W203-42-3. 3499/W.

SECRET

THE OFFICE OF THE HON'BLE THE
RESIDENT IN MYSORE
Bangalore, 17th June 1943.

No.R.F.73(1)-43/Pol.

A copy of the undermentioned paper and its enclosures is forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, Bangalore, for information in continuation of endorsement from this Residency No.R.F.73-43/Pol., dated the 26th February 1943.

By order, etc.,

for SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

Letter from the Government of India in the Home Department No.67/42-Political (E), dated the 10th May 1943, to all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners.

Ten.

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners, No.67/42-Political (E), dated the 10th May 1943.

Recognition of the Middle East Forces Special Identification Travel Permits as valid travel documents.

In continuation of the Home Department letter No.67/42-Political (E) dated the 4th January 1943, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Provincial Government/your information, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin, and to say that it has been decided that bearers of the Middle East Forces Special Identification Travel Permits bearing stamp of the Passport Control Authorities at the ports of entry in India should be considered to be travelling with proper travel documents.

1. Telegram No.21806/I, dated the 5th September 1942, to Mideast, Cairo.
2. Savingram No.1, dated the 4th January 1943, from the Minister of State, Cairo.
3. Telegram No.55, dated the 13th March 1943, to the Minister of State, Cairo.
4. Letter No.M/S.38, dated the 23rd March 1943, from the Minister of State, Cairo.
5. Telegram No.510C, dated the 8th May 1943, to the Minister of State, Cairo.

Copy of a telegram No.21806/I, dated the 5th September 1942, to Middle East, Cairo, from ARMINDIA.

In continuation of my 18351/I of 3/8 regarding customs and censorship exemptions. Allied service personnel in uniform and on duty may enter or pass through India without passports or visas provided their identity and authority for journey can be established. Officers should have identity cards with photographs and other ranks a pay book. In exceptional cases passport examining authorities India prepared accept other satisfactory forms identification. Passports should normally be carried by civilian personnel, but if this is impracticable Government of India require prior notification of name port of entry and date of arrival.

Allied headquarters and British naval and air authorities should be informed.

Copy of Savingram No.1, dated the 4th January 1943, from the Minister of State, Cairo.

Special Travel Permit.

1. In order to avoid inconvenience and delay which frequently occurs when visas and other travel documents are required by civilians proceeding on British Government duty to countries neighbouring or forming part of the Middle East, it has been decided to institute a special travel permit which will facilitate their movement and dispense with the existing formalities of obtaining entry, transit and exist visas.

2. The new permit which would apply to civilians who are British subjects, although a few non-British exceptions may be made in special cases, and which will have a limited period of validity, would be issued by the Pass and Permit Office, G.H.Q. M.E.F. and would be available for the following types of civilians:-

(a) Senior members of the Office of the Minister of State and its Subsidiary Organisations, and civilians of senior status employed by the Services.
(b) Senior executives, technicians and specialists who are working for or acting as advisers of the Services
(c) Senior officials of recognised philanthropic bodies, e.g. British Red Cross.

3. The following countries have so far consented to the facility applied for: Sudan, Iraq, Persia, Palestine, Transjordan, Cyprus, Malta, Aden, Eritrea.

4. I shall be most grateful if you would consent to the travel permit being operative within India. The concession in respect of civilians notified in your cable 21806/1 of 5th September 1942 to G.H.Q. Middle East does not exactly meet present requirements.

5. A specimen of the proposed travel permit is attached and every issue of a permit for travel in India will be notified to you. No permits will issued without submitting names of individuals concerned to the Security authorities who control the Pass and Permit Office, G.H.Q. M.E.F.

Copy of a telegram XX, No.55, dated the 13th March 1943, from the Government of India, Home Department, to Minstate, Cairo.

Continuation Home Department telegram No.19 dated 26th January Special travel permits.

In absence indication nature of difficulties mentioned in para 4 of your Savingram unable appreciate why concession in respect civilians notified in Armindia No.21806/1 of 5th September unsuitable but presume use of special travel permit s by civilians intended only when journey is secret or compliance with existing concession physically impossible. On this understanding and subject to paragraph 2 below Government India agree use of permit for classes (a) and (b) in your paragraph2. Red Cross officials and others in class (c) should ordinarily have passports.

2. Request if possible -
First, permit be stamped with embossed stamp of issuing officer or be signed by him across the photograph;
Second, space be provided on permit for stamp of control authorities at place entry into India;
Third, intimation whether Ceylon included in the permit scheme;
Fourth, supply of twenty-four samples of final permit from form for information Indian control authorities.

Copy of a letter No.M/S.38, dated the 23rd March 1943, from the Minister of State, Cairo, to the Government of India, in the E.A. Department, New Delhi.

Special Travel Permit.

---

1. Reference your telegram No.55 of 14/3/43 agreeing to the use of travel permits for certain classes subject to certain conditions.

2. Armindia cable 21806/1 of 5th September 1942 did not cover our needs as it required that (a) Civilian personnel should normally carry passports, but where this is impracticable (b) Government of India require prior identification of name, date of arrival and port of entry. This, of course, is not feasible as the Department who issues the special permit does not require that passports be carried when holders have B.F.I. cards and are also not in the position to advise when and where permit holder will enter India. Armindia cable of 5th September 1942 was in reply to a request to grant facilities for members of the U.S.A. forces to travel in that country without need of passports and visas and cannot therefore be said to be a sufficient reply to our own distinct concessions required for the special travel permit.

3. The requirements of India in paragraph 2 of your telegram No.58 are already covered and there is plenty of space in the B.F.I. card for stamp of control authorities at place of entry into India.

4. Ceylon should be included in this scheme if no difficulty arises.

B.F.I.cards for Philanthropic Societies.

5. It having been agreed that official representative both males and females, of recognised Philanthorpic Societies who are members of the Middle East Council of Voluntary War Work, being subjected to Military law in accordance to section 175 of the Army Act, shall be granted a pass kai issuable to officers.

6. Provided therefore that such representatives wear the prescribed uniform of the Society which they represent, plus a strip inscribed "Welfare" which shall ~~shall~~ be worn on each shoulder or top of both sleeves, they will become holders of the White British Forces identification cards.

7. Subject therefore to the consent of the authorities of the various countries comprising the Middle East territorial command, and those adjoining it is desirous that these representatives be given similar facilities or travel, without passports or visas as those held by serving officers, nursing sisters and accredited war correspondents.

In this connection, it is appreciated that existing facilities for ease of travel are provided for in the Middle East special identificatio travel permit which has now come into operation, but it is not now desired to issue this latter Permit to official representatives of recognised Philanthropic Societies as they will not travel unless properly authorised to do so by the senior representative of the Society concerned and counter-authorised by AGS G.H.Q., M.E.F. These authorities ensure that necessary control is being exercised.

8. I would be most obliged if you could obtain the necessary approval as soon as possible and let me know, as the persons concerned will be wearing their prescribed uniforms and will carry additional to the B.F.I. cards broper movement orders authorised by the senior representative of their Society and counter-authorised by AGS.

9. I attach for your information six copies of G.O.275 of 1943, and also I enclose specimen cards Nos.00121 to 00148 of special identification travel permit for the Middle East Forces for distribution to any persons and frontier posts concerned.

Copy of the Home Department telegram XX, No.5100, dated the 8th May 1943, to the Minstate, Cairo.

Reference your letter M/S.38, dated March 23rd. Special travel permits.

2. Government of India agree to use of Middle East Special Identification Travel Permits for official representatives of ~~recognised~~ recognised Philanthropic Societies also.

3. Suggest you take up matter of including Ceylon in Permit Scheme direct with them and let us know result.

Ten.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

***

No. 4505-6/W [illegible] General & Revenue Sectt.
Bangalore, 23rd June 1943.

From W203-42-4.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

To

The Civil Representative in Mysore,
& I.G. of Police in Mysore. Bangalore.

Sir,

In continuation of this office letter No.3562-63/W dated 1st March 1943, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter No.67/42-Political (E), dated the 10th May 1943, from the Government of India in the Home Department, since received from the Residency

I have, etc.,

For Chief Secretary to Govt.